



*your lines. your lights.  
your community.*



FEBRUARY 2012

Dear Friends,

We hope 2012 is off to a good start for you. The New Year will be full of activity for the Thumb Loop transmission line project. In this edition of our newsletter, we'll take a look at the major activities we'll be working on during 2012, and we'll also give you a glimpse of what's anticipated for the rest of the project.

In less than a year we've gone from lines on a map to shovels in the ground. We have started construction on the first of four substations needed for this project, the Bauer substation in Tuscola County, northeast of Frankenmuth. By the beginning of the second quarter of this year we'll be ready to begin drilling foundations, installing poles and stringing conductor for Phase 1 of the line, which extends from the Bauer substation to the new Rapson substation in Huron County, east of Bad Axe in Sigel Township. We'll be working closely with landowners on items such as access points and construction schedules over the coming months as we gear up for this work.

Also, easement agreement negotiations for Phase 3, the eastern segment from Rapson south to Greenwood, will begin in Huron County later in the first quarter, in Sanilac County in the second quarter and in St. Clair County later in the year.

The Thumb Loop project remains on schedule because of the great cooperation and coordination we're receiving from landowners, local officials and the wind energy developers that will be connecting to the line. None of this progress would be possible without all parties working together. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in working toward this common goal.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about the project, we urge you to contact the UFS land agent assigned to work with you. You can reach your agent at our field office in Bad Axe at **(989) 269-7499**. ■

Sincerely,  
The Thumb Loop Project Team



Return Service Requested

Thumb Loop  
345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

ITC  
222 Park Avenue, Suite 1  
Bad Axe, MI 48413

# Thumb Loop Project Schedule & Major Milestones

Until recently, activities on the Thumb Loop project have been in the pre-construction phase, including finalizing right-of-entry and easement agreements, soil borings, design of the Bauer and Rapson substations and line segments, ordering materials and lining up contractors. Negotiations for real estate easements along the first 62 miles of the line in Tuscola and Huron counties are being finalized, and similar negotiations are underway in eastern Huron and Sanilac counties for the eastern phase of the project. Work on the Bauer substation has started, and line construction in Tuscola County will begin in the second quarter of this year. The line construction will work its way northeast from Bauer through Tuscola County and into Huron County, heading toward the Rapson substation site east of Bad Axe in Sigel Township.

Here is a snapshot of major activities and milestones planned for the Thumb Loop project:

## 2012

- Bauer substation construction underway
- Easement negotiations conclude for Bauer to Rapson (Phase 1, west side of project – Tuscola and Huron counties)
- Easement agreement negotiations for Phase 3, Rapson to Greenwood, beginning in Huron County late first quarter, Sanilac County in the second quarter, St. Clair County later in the year
- Second quarter: Bauer to Rapson line construction begins (Phase 1, Tuscola and Huron counties – 62 miles)
- Second quarter: Bauer substation construction concludes, Rapson substation construction begins



*Construction is underway on the Bauer substation in Tuscola County*

## 2013

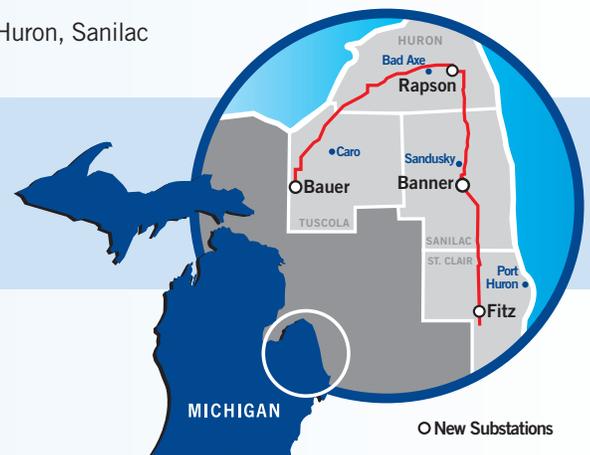
- Bauer to Rapson line construction concludes
- Rapson substation construction concludes
- Greenwood to Fitz line construction (Phase 2, southeastern section in St. Clair County – 20 miles)
- Fitz substation construction (St. Clair County)
- Phase 1 (Bauer to Rapson) line and substations complete and in service – target date: third quarter
- Rapson to Greenwood line construction begins (Phase 3, eastern section, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair counties – 57 miles)

## 2014

- Rapson to Greenwood line construction continues
- Banner substation construction begins (Sanilac County)
- Phase 2 (Greenwood to Fitz) line and substation complete and in service

## 2015

- Banner substation construction concludes
- Rapson to Greenwood line construction concludes
- Project completed and in service – target date: third quarter



## Why is the Thumb Loop schedule important?

The Thumb Loop project is a result of Michigan's Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act of 2008. The Act sets the state's first Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which requires that roughly 10 percent of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2015, phased in beginning in 2013. Because much of that energy will come from wind farms in the Thumb region, it's important for the Thumb Loop project to stay on schedule. It will provide the "energy superhighway" that will deliver the power to areas where it's needed starting in 2013 when the first phase of the project is scheduled to be finished. ■